

WATERING AND MOWING

Watering

- **Conserve water. Let your lawn go dormant in summer.** Most established lawns need just 1/4" to 1/2" of water or rain every 2-4 weeks to stay alive during dormancy. They green up in cooler weather.
- **If you don't let your lawn go dormant, water deeply and early in the day.** Watering in the morning minimizes evaporation and reduces disease potential. Lawns need 1" of water per week to encourage deep roots that withstand drought.
- **Don't water when rain is forecast or on windy days. After a rain shower, skip watering** until the grass dries and you begin to leave footprints.
- **Know your grass type.** Some grass types require more water than others. Cool-season grasses such as Bluegrass, Bentgrass or Ryegrass should not go without water for more than four or five days in hot weather.
- **Vary your watering regimen by the season:** Your lawn needs half as much water in the spring and fall than it does in July or August.

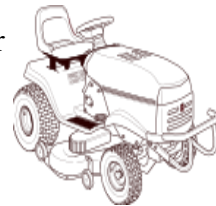


- **Check your sprinklers** for leaks or misdirected nozzles.
- **Replace your sprinkler system** with a water-efficient system that includes a moisture or rain sensor and an automatic timer.
- **Use drip irrigation** where possible.
- **Test your soil:** Water only when a probe or screwdriver is difficult to push into the ground or shows that the soil is dry 4 - 6 inches down.



Mowing

- **Mow high.** Leaving 3 inches or more in the summer encourages deep roots and healthy grass that withstands drought and minimizes weeds.
- **Mow with a sharp blade** to give a cleaner cut and reduce disease potential. Never remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade at a time.
- **Leave clippings of 1" or less on the lawn.** This provides many nutrients and it also improves the soil.



Fertilizers

- **SOIL TEST:** Only apply nutrients according to the needs identified in a soil test. Do not over-apply.
- **Learn about fertilizer choices and application timing.** Avoid fertilizing during summer months. Fertilizing more than twice a year requires more watering and mowing, and may also increase disease and insect problems.
- **Do not apply chemicals when it is windy** or when rain is in the forecast.
- **Avoid applying pesticide or fertilizer** to driveways, sidewalks, patios or roadways, and keep them out of water streams or storm drains.
- **Maintain a buffer area that has had fertilizer or pesticides applied to it** to keep chemicals out of any surface water source, paved surface, or food area.
- **Clean and fill applicator equipment** on grassy areas in case of a spill.
- **Dispose of unused chemicals properly.** Check the label for instructions.



FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDES

Pesticides

- **Mow high** to minimize weeds.
- **Look before you treat, know where your pests are.**
- **Only use pesticides when truly necessary.** Sometimes a pest problem can be confused with a need for more water or fertilizer. Also, a pest problem can often be cured without harmful chemicals by hand-picking pests or **hand-weeding**.
- **Take a preventive approach.** Make sure that your new or existing plants do not have any pest problems before you plant. In the case of vegetables, it is good practice to rotate your plants to prevent disease from occurring in the first place.
- **Identify the weed or pest.** Timing and control methods vary. Some insecticides only treat pests in a particular stage of life. Also, some insects - such as the praying mantis, lacewig larvae, and ladybugs - are good for your garden and you would want to keep them around.
- **Spot treat,** instead of treating the whole lawn.
- **Read and follow the label!**

